

Message Text

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ACTION HA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 DODE-00 SY-02 CA-01

CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-06 L-01 PA-01 USIA-10 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3155

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2517

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH HEAD OF KUALA TRENGGANU SPECIAL
BRANCH POLICE OFFICER

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2349

1. MR. ABU HASSAN, HEAD OF KUALA TRENGGANU SPECIAL POLICE
OFFICE, ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL OTHER POLICEMENT VISITED PULAU
BESAR, LARGEST OF MALAYSIAN REFUGEE CAMPS, AND SPOKE AT
LENGTH WITH EMBOFFS. HASSAN STATED HIS OFFICE WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR FOLLOWING AND REPORTING ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROGRAMS.
HASSAN SPOKE OPENLY WITH REFUGEE OFFICER, EXPRESSING SEVERAL
CONCERNS, MOST SIGNIFICANT BEING POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNIST AGENTS
USING REFUGEE SYSTEM AS VEHICLE FOR ENTERING MALAYSIA. HE
POINTED OUT THAT LARGE PERCENTAGE OF REFUGEES
WERE OF CHINESE ORIGIN AND HOW EASILY THEY COULD SLIP INTO
MALAYSIAN ECONOMY.

2. HASSAN COMMENTED THAT HE WAS NOT COMFORTABLE WITH PRESENT
CAMP SECURITY MEASURES AND REQUESTED ENTIRE REFUGEE AREA BE
ENCLOSED AND FULL-TIME MALAYSIAN POLICE PERSONNEL BE STATIONED
INSIDE CAMP. HASSAN CONTINUED BY MENTIONING THAT HIS OFFICE HAD
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THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED TWO REFUGEE-REPORTED COMMUNIST INCIDENTS.
INVESTIGATION REVEALED LOCAL QUARRELS WITH NO SUBSTANCE.

3. HASSAN VIEWS REFUGEES ESCAPING TO MALAYSIA AS A LONG-TERM
PROBLEM STATING PRESENT OFFICIAL MALAYSIAN POLICE WAS NOT TO
ENCOURAGE BOATS TO LAND BUT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND DIRECTIONS
TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. HOWEVER, DUE TO HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS ON

LOCAL LEVEL, BOATS WERE ALLOWED TO LAND.

4. FIVE OR SIX REFUGEES ARE NOW BEING HELD IN KUALA TRENGGANU JAIL AS HIJACKERS. GOM ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO RETURN HIJACKERS TO SRV BUT AFTER INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS DECIDED NOT TO RETURN HIJACKERS. HASSAN FEELS THAT MEN WILL EVENTUALLY BE TRIED UNDER MALAYSIAN LAW AS HIJACKERS. THIS WAS THE FIRST HIJACKING INCIDENT ENCOUNTERED BY MALAYSIA. (COMMENT: SINCE REFERENCE HIJACKING INCIDENT THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL SUBSEQUENT HIJACKINGS WHICH GOM ARE PROBABLY AWARE OF BUT MAY HAVE CHOSEN TO OVERLOOK DETAILS ON VESSELS ALLEGEDLY SEIZED BY FORCE WERE DISCUSSED IN REFTEL. END COMMENT)

5. HASSAN'S FINAL CONCERN WAS HIS LACK OF VIETNAMESE LINQUISTS TO HELP IN BETTER UNDERSTANDING CAMP SITUATIONS FROM A CULTURAL/ SOCIAL CONTEXT. REF:OFF MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE NUMEROUS REFUGEES WHO SPOKE EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST. (NO COMMENT BY HASSAN) HASSAN ASKED EMBOFFS IF HE DID MEET DIFFICULTIES IN THIS AREA, COULD HE REQUEST U.S. EMBASSY ASSISTANCE. EMBOFFS RESPONDED POSITIVELY.
MILLER

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